

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application.

Claims 1 and 3-13 remain pending in this application, with Claim 1 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended Claim 1 and canceled Claim 14.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,241,921 (Jacobson, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,652,079 (Mochizuki, et al.). Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Jacobson, et al. and Mochizuki, et al., in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,172,798 (Albert, et al.). Applicants traverse these rejections.

As recited in independent Claim 1, Applicants' invention is directed to an electrophoretic display device having at least two electrodes, fixing surfaces, an electrophoretic layer and voltage application means. The electrophoretic layer is disposed in a cell and comprises an insulating liquid and colored charged particles disposed in the electrophoretic layer. The voltage application means applies a voltage between the electrodes, thereby causing migration of the colored charged particles toward an collective attachment onto one of the fixing surfaces. The colored charged particles have a surface adhesive layer which attaches the colored charged particles on the fixing surface so as to retain the display state under no external voltages and allows the colored charged particles to separate from the fixing surface under an external voltage exceeding a threshold value, so as to rewrite the display. The surface adhesive layer comprises a polymer having a glass

transition temperature (Tg) of -35°C to +35°C. The colored charge particles have an average size in a range of 5 to 70 µm.

Jacobson, et al. describes a display system in which polymer-coated particles 110 and 115 are separated onto distinct hemispherical regions of a spherical element 135 by the application of electric field. Once separated, particles 110 and 115 are fused onto the element 135 by the application of heat. This results in element 135 having two hemispheres 138 and 140 which are electrically charged to mutually opposite polarities. Element 135 is then enclosed in a capsule 100, and that capsule 100 is positioned between a pair of electrodes 120 and 125. The capsule 100 is rotated by an electric field generated by the electrodes 120 and 125 so as to alternate the hemisphere which is visible to a viewer.

Because particles 110 and 115 are fused to a single element and encapsulated, Applicants submit that those particles don't have an *adhesive layer* that attaches those particles to a fixing surface, and allows the particles to *separate from the fixing surface repeatedly*. Instead, capsule 100 merely rotates with respect to electrodes 140 and 145, without the repetitive attachment and release of particles through electrical charge and adhesion.

Mochizuki, et al. is directed to a carrier for a dry two-component developer. That patent describes a polymer having a glass transition temperature of -35°C to +35°C, which the Office Action acknowledges Jacobson, et al. fails to describe or suggest. However, Applicants submit that this document fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above with respect to Jacobson, et al.

Albert, et al. is merely cited in the Office Action as describing an insulating liquid with a specific volumetric resistivity and the disposition of two electrodes on an identical plane. Again, however, Applicants submit that this document fails to remedy the deficiencies of the repetitive attachment and separation of particles as discussed above with respect to Jacobson, et al.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Jacobson, et al., Mochizuki, et al. and Albert, et al. patents, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of colored charged particles having a surface adhesive layer which attaches the colored charged particles on a fixing surface so as to retain a display state under no external voltages and allows the colored charged particles to separate from the fixing surface under an external voltage exceeding a threshold value so as to rewrite the display state, the surface adhesive layer comprising a polymer having a glass transition temperature (T_g) of -35°C to +35°C, and the colored charged particles having an average size in a range of 5 to 70 μm, as recited in independent Claim 1.

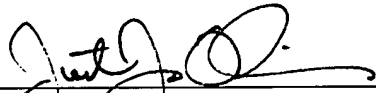
The remaining claims in the present application still under consideration are dependent claims which depend from the independent claims discussed above, and thus are patentable over the documents of record for reasons noted above with respect to those independent claims. In addition, each recites features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied documents. Applicants request favorable and independent consideration thereof.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims are distinguishable over the applied documents, whether those documents are taken alone or in combination, and request withdrawal of the rejections under §103.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. At the very least, the changes presented herein reduce the number of issues on appeal. Accordingly, Applicants request entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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